

Theodora Johnson lives on in the lives of the people she touched, in the good works she left behind, and in the wonderful memories we have of her. I know that I speak for all my colleagues in extending to her family our deepest sympathy and condolences.

RECOGNIZING EAST PIKELAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the East Pikeland Elementary School on its 75th anniversary and for its exemplary dedication and service to the children of the East Pikeland Township and the Phoenixville School District.

Originally, East Pikeland School was a one-room schoolhouse that in 1928 followed the national trend of school consolidation, in consolidating with two other schools, the Schuylkill School and the Charlestown School. This consolidation was made possible through the generous philanthropy of a local entrepreneur, Frank B. Foster.

In its early years, the East Pikeland School was one of the first in Pennsylvania to start an elementary school newspaper. In 1932, Miss Helen Ottinger created "The Tattler" and the newspaper later won an award for being the best elementary newspaper in the Commonwealth.

Beginning in the 1970s, the East Pikeland School further exhibited its excellence in teaching and learning when students in grades five, eight, and eleven were required to begin participating in the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment. Each year, the East Pikeland School students' scores were among the top in Chester County and the state in both reading and math. This outstanding performance by the students led to numerous awards, including a citation from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. In the year 2000, the School was recognized by the East Pikeland Township for ranking highest among Chester County schools in reading and math. In 2000–2001, East Pikeland received a Maintenance of High Standards Award for maintaining high scores for three consecutive years. In 2002–2003, East Pikeland received an achievement improvement award from the East Pikeland Township for increased scores in reading and math.

Aside from an impressive academic record, the East Pikeland School has also excelled in extracurricular activities starting as early as 1946. Basketball was a popular sport, with the East Pikeland boys' team winning the West Chester playoffs in 1946. And in 2004, an old tradition of basketball games between Phoenixville area schools was reinstated. Fourth and fifth grade boys named "the Future Phantoms" represented East Pikeland in the tournament. Along with participation in sports, the students of East Pikeland participate in band and chorus and perform twice a year in the winter and spring concerts. In 2000, the East Pikeland Chorus won a superior rating in its first participation in the Music in the Parks competition in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Two years later in 2002, the tradition of a second grade play began with all students singing and acting in the spring performance.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the East Pikeland School for its 75 years of dedication and excellence in teaching and for its considerable contributions to and unparalleled achievement within the East Pikeland community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was absent attending meetings in my Congressional District in Ohio and missed the votes on rollcall No. 139, on H. Res. 600, Congratulating charter schools; Roll Call Number 140, on H. Con. Res. 380, Recognizing school-based music education; and Roll Call Number 141, on H. Res. 599, Congratulating the University of Connecticut men's and women's basketball teams.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall No. 139, "yea" on rollcall No. 140, and "yea" on rollcall No. 141.

FOURTH DISTRICT JUNIOR CONFERENCE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I recently received a letter from a constituent of mine who is an Americanism Chairman for the American Legion in Osage, Iowa. This person asked for the attached article's inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Because of the exceptional work that the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary do for our country, I believe that this gesture is a small token of the appreciation of the Congress.

4TH DISTRICT JUNIOR CONFERENCE

The Osage Unit 278 hosted the Fourth District Junior Conference on March 21, 2004 with about 70 people in attendance.

The new officers for the coming year will be:

President—Nicole Schroeder, Unit 672 Fort Atkinson.

Vice-President—Alicia Brandau, Unit 278 Osage.

Secretary—Mallory Schweiger, Unit 278 Osage.

Historian—Amy Schroeder, Unit 672 Fort Atkinson.

Chaplain—Kelsey Klimesh, Unit 266 Calmar.

Sergeant-at-Arms—Brittney Shannon, Unit 9 Oelwein.

Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms—Kalinda Kolek, Unit 605 Protivin.

The many talents of the young people of the Fourth District shown through once again in the form of contest entries that were submitted for judging. Congratulations to all who worked so hard on their projects. The top place contestants were:

Poppy Posters: Class I—1st—Jake Tyler, Hawkeye, 2nd—Dustin Elsbend, Calmar, 3rd—Miranda Walz, Monona Class II—1st—Holly Randall, Guttenberg, 2nd—Lukes Elsbend, Calmar, 3rd—Megan Fink, Fort Atkinson Class III—1st—Emily Faust, Colesburg, 2nd—Kelsey Klimesh, Calmar, 3rd—Lindsy Franzen, Calmar

Poppy Corsages: Class I—1st—Grace Blocker, Fort Atkinson, 2nd—Kalinda Kolek, Protivin, Class II—Micki Schuck, Oelwein, 2nd—Carrie Pout, Oelwein, 3rd—Cassidy Pout, Oelwein, Class III—1st—Jessica Milbrandt, Fort Atkinson, 2nd—Kristen Milbrandt, Fort Atkinson, 3rd—Kerri Boies, Oelwein

Chaplain's Book of Prayers & Inspirations: Class II—1st—Jessica Milbrandt, Fort Atkinson, 2nd—Kristin Milbrandt, Fort Atkinson, 3rd—Kalinda Jo Kolek, Protivin

Junior History Book: Kristin Milbrandt, Fort Atkinson.

Junior Scrapbook: Jessica Milbrandt, Fort Atkinson.

Americanism Essay Contest: Kristin Milbrandt, Fort Atkinson.

Handiwork: 1st place all classes—Fort Atkinson.

A wonderful lunch was served by the host Unit and the entertainment of Hawaiian dancing very enjoyable. The Oelwein Unit will host the 2005 conference and I hope to see many Juniors in attendance. Mary E. Lukes, Fourth District Junior Chairman.

TRIBUTE TO VINCE DEMUZIO, ILLINOIS STATE SENATOR AND MAJORITY LEADER

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of an exceptional statesman from Illinois, Senate Majority Leader Vince Demuzio. Throughout his career, Senator Demuzio has been a tremendous leader for the State of Illinois. His efforts in the Illinois Assembly, too numerous to even mention, serve as a model for each of us in public service.

For twenty nine years, Senator Demuzio proved to be a true leader in the state legislature as he worked to represent the needs of his constituents while reaching out to all of his colleagues. Senator Demuzio was admired and respected on both sides of the aisle. His spirited partisanship, which included a reputation of being both tough and fair, brought members together across party lines, for the good of Illinois.

Senator Demuzio consistently possessed a keen understanding of what it truly meant to be a public servant. Vince put the needs of his community first and foremost in everything he did. The people of Illinois have truly benefited from Senator Demuzio's legislative initiatives that included massive education reform, transportation projects, agricultural research, and necessary state-wide water and sewage improvements. He remained focused on state government throughout his entire political career and has greatly contributed to the development of downstate Illinois.

Senator Demuzio's leadership and political abilities have been recognized by his colleagues throughout his entire career. Vince served as the state chairman of the Democratic Party from 1986 to 1990, becoming the first downstate official to hold the post in decades, giving the areas surrounding the 49th district a greater voice in the state government. In 2003, Senator Demuzio became the Dean of the Senate, having served more